Amendments to the Claims

This listing replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 12 (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve ~~and a holding element attached at each end of the tubular sleeve~~, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube <u>and when shortened to slide along the tube</u>, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 13, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

16. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

17. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 16, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

18. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.

19. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

20. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 19, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

21-30 (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings.

32. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 31, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

33. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 32, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

34. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

35. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

36. (currently amended) A fastener in combination with a tube, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve ~~and a holding element attached at each end of the tubular sleeve~~, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube for securing the tube to a patient <u>and when shortened to slide along the tube</u>, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, <u>the tubular sleeve further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the tubular sleeve is arranged to lengthen and grip the tube when the tube is pulled away from the attachment means.</u>

37-38 (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) In combination, a fastener in combination with a tube as defined in claim 13 and instructions for its use in securing said tube to a patient.

40-46 (cancelled)

47. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 13, wherein said tube is a catheter.

48. (cancelled)

49. (currently amended) A fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, ~~a holding element attached at a first end of said tubular sleeve and~~ wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

50. (cancelled)

51. (cancelled)

52. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

53. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

54. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 53, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

55. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.

56. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

57. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 56, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

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58. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, wherein an opening is capable of permitting a tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

59. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 58, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

60. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

61. (previously presented) A fastener according to claim 49, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

62. (new) A combination according to claim 13 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.

63. (new) A combination according to claim 62, wherein the collar is a ring.

64. (new) A combination according to claim 36 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.

65. (new) A combination according to claim 64, wherein the collar is a ring.

66. (new) A fastener according to claim 49 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.

67. (new) A combination according to claim 66, wherein the collar is a ring.

68. (new) A combination according to claim 13 wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube.

69. (new) A fastener according to claim 49 wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube.